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XIV.—*Details of Explorations of the Old Calabar River, in 1841 and 1842, by Captain BECROFT, of the Merchant Steamer ETHIOPE, and Mr. J. B. KING, Surgeon of that Vessel. Drawn up by Mr. KING,* and communicated by Mr. JAMIESON, of Liverpool.*

THE flood season of the Old Calabar, in 1841, was far advanced before we were enabled to commence the explorations of that river which we had received instructions from Mr. Jamieson to attempt. Owing to the occurrence of untoward circumstances in our trading occupations on the coast, and from our having subsequently been called upon to proceed up the Niger to the assistance of her Majesty's steamer *Albert* in distress there, it was so late as the 23rd of October when we arrived off Duke's Town in the prosecution of our purpose.

Deeming it necessary to acquaint the chief who resides here ("Eyamba V., King for all black man," as he styles himself) with our object in coming to the river, we immediately landed to wait upon him. Our communication did not appear at all to please him. He expressed his apprehension that our explorations of the river would lead to consequences injurious to the trade of his town; and said, "I hear your countryman done spoil West Indies. I think he want come spoil we country all same."† We assured him we only wanted to see "where all the water of the river came from."

We next waited on the chief who resides at Creek Town, in the immediate neighbourhood (King Eyeo Honesty), to acquaint him also of our purpose in coming to the river. He made no objection, but told us that the branch above Duke's Town "no go long way," and that the water of the other branch (Cross River) was already falling so fast, that if "steamer once catch ground, him stay there till river rise again next year."

Oct. 25th.—All needful preparations being made, we weighed anchor to proceed up the branch above Duke's Town. Very shortly afterwards we passed Willie Tom's, or Old Town, prettily situated on an elevated sandhill on our right. Here the stream makes a sudden and rather angular turn from N.E. by E., coming up to W.N.W. $\frac{1}{2}$ W. greatly contracted, and forming, on its opposite side from Old Town, an alluvial elbow. Above, it widens again into an expansive reach, rounding at its upper end

* The chart of the river, which accompanies this paper, was also prepared by Mr. King, and obligingly communicated by Mr. Jamieson.—ED.

† It may be necessary to explain, that on the west coast of Africa the English language is spoken by the natives in this imperfect manner, and that, when interpreters are carried into the interior, they must be spoken to in a similar style, in order to convey your meaning in the way they are most likely to comprehend it.

to the eastward, and having throughout a depth of 6 and 7 fathoms at low water. In this round we passed on our left the entrance of the creek leading to Creek Town; and immediately after, that of another, leading, as our pilots informed us, to a small town named Ebundâ, a short distance in the bush. Proceeding onwards in from 9 to 10 fathoms, we next turned into a beautiful reach running in a N. $\frac{1}{2}$ E. direction, 200 to 250 yards wide, but having somewhat varying and irregular soundings. The bank here on our right was firm, and elevated into a sandy hill, which was picturesquely portioned out into native plantations. A few of the slopes were covered with wine palms, from many of which, we observed calabashes suspended near to their summits, to receive the minniefôt they give when tapped.* At 10 o'clock we were abreast of a town situated on our right, in the upper end of this reach, named by the people of Old Calabar "Little Guinea Company," and being anxious to see what a town with so imposing a name was like, we anchored, and proceeded on shore. We landed, under the shadowing branches of a large bombax, amongst a crowd of people, who stared at us in silent astonishment; and, walking to the house of the chief or head-man, named "Otoo," we were introduced to him by our interpreter as Makarra (white man) come to see him. His countenance expressed anything but satisfaction at our visit; nevertheless, a piece of cotton cloth having been spread upon a small ebony table, and minniefôt and hollands placed upon it, we were asked to drink; Otoo having first partaken of both himself, by way, as is the custom in these parts, of taking what is called "doctor off it." Having drank, we asked him to accept of a small present we had brought for him, which he did, and "dashed" us, in return, a goat, a hundred yams, and a calabash of minniefôt. After some conversation on the nature and extent of trade done by his people with the neighbouring towns and villages, and an intimation that we should be happy to see him on board, if he pleased, on our return down the river, we took our leave, and retraced our steps to the boat at the landing.

This town may consist of 80 to 100 houses, with a population of perhaps 1000 inhabitants. The houses are greatly inferior to those at Duke's Town, and, excepting Otoo's, but very scantily and miserably furnished.

We weighed with the young flood, which here overtook us, and in half an hour we were abreast of Big Guinea Company, or "Guinea Company" proper. The distance between the two

* Palm wine, called by the old Calabar people "minniefôt," obtained by tapping the *wine palm* (a species of the *areca*) near to its summit, and attaching a calabash to collect the liquor as it exudes from the incision. A similar liquor is also obtained from the *bamboo*.

places may be about 3 miles, the river winding in a N.W. direction. The banks are low alluvium, densely covered with palms and other trees, and skirted with patches of young mangrove. Our depth of water was 5, 6, and 7 fathoms. As we passed, the natives crowded in hundreds to look at us, a few of the men coming armed with muskets and other weapons. Being anxious to get forward as fast as possible, we did not stop, but signified to them, through our interpreter, that we were friendly, and would visit them on our return down the river.

Continuing our course, therefore, we turned suddenly round at the uppermost of the towns just mentioned, into a fine reach running about 2 miles in an E.S.E. direction, with soundings close along its southern side of from 4 to 7 fathoms; we then rounded again to the north, passing, on our right, a mean-looking village named Imbarra; and shortly after, on our right also, the entrance of a creek leading to what is called the Little Hooieong Country. The river now begins to narrow, and to shoal to less than 2 fathoms. We here observed the last patch of mangrove, skirting the bank for about 20 yards on our left, and marking perhaps the tide's limits. The water was almost still,—just perceptibly running down in the centre of the channel. Passing a small island on our left, we had only 7 feet water, and immediately after we grounded. By lightening the vessel a little forward and reversing the engine, we got off again, and proceeded slowly, the stream narrowing to about 35 yards and winding. At 5h. 30m. we arrived off Cooieong, a small town, concealed amongst trees, on the W. bank, and deemed it prudent, from the greatly reduced depth of water, to come to an anchor for the night, purposing to examine the channel the next morning in our gig.

26th.—Having landed for a few minutes to see Cooieong, which we found in ruins and deserted, we returned to our gig to examine the channel. As we ascended, the stream narrowed, dwindling in fact into a mere creek, having only 6 feet water, with the trees on the opposite banks in many places freely interweaving their branches over us. To attempt further progress in the steamer, therefore, was altogether out of the question, and we returned on board to retrace our course to Duke's Town. Having got steam up, we weighed, and, by means of a warp astern made fast to a tree on shore, swung the vessel round and proceeded, but had not gone far when we grounded, and it was not till after several hours' exertion that we succeeded in getting afloat again. This accomplished, we proceeded slowly, and came to an anchor off "Big Guinea Company," where, according to promise, we landed. This place (called Guinea Company by the early English slavers) consists of half a dozen miserable-looking towns or villages, with a population amongst them of perhaps 5000 in-

habitants, each town or village having its respective chief or headman. Of these chiefs we visited three, who, though greatly surprised at our appearance, received us in a kindly manner, and dashed us goats and fowls, for which we made them presents in return. The people pressed around us as we passed along, and, following in a crowd on our return to the landing-place, cheered us as we pulled off to the steamer.

27th.—Weighed and proceeded at 9h. 30m.; on arriving off "Little Guinea Company" we stopped for a time to pay our respects to Otoo, and at 11h. 30m. reached Duke's Town and anchored.

The following meteorological Memoranda may be interesting. The temperature, it may be observed, is in the shade, noted from a Fahrenheit's thermometer kept upon deck for that purpose:—

Date.	Temp. Air.				Temp. of Water at Noon.	Baro- meter.	REMARKS.
	6 A.M.	Noon.	3 P.M.	6 P.M.			
Oct. 23	—	90	92	86	88	29.0 to 29.30	A.M., fine—6 P.M., rain, with thunder and lightning.
24	79	84	87	82	82		Clear and fine, with light SW. breeze.
25	79	90	92	80	89		Fine—5 P.M., rain with thunder and lightning.
26	82	80	82	80	80		A.M., showery—P.M., ditto, with light breeze.
27	78	83	85	82	80		Fine—P.M., cloudy.
28	79	85	87	84	81		Clear and fine—calm.
29	78	85	86	82	82		Ditto—3 P.M., thunder and lightning—rain.
30	79	87	89	85	84		Fine—P.M., rain—thunder and lightning.
31	76	84	87	82	82		Fine—P.M., cloudy.

Having thus ascertained the unimportant character of this branch of the river, we felt anxious to know something of the nature and extent of the other branch called Cross River; but to attempt its navigation with the steamer when its waters were receding and already much fallen, was impracticable. We therefore looked about for a substitute of a less draught of water, by which to accomplish our purpose, and nothing appeared more suitable than the state-canoe of King Eyamba with its crew of pull-away-boys.* With a view, if possible, of arranging for the loan of this canoe, we waited on Eyamba, who on hearing our request looked quite astonished, and enquired if we were serious; on assuring him that we were, and stating to him our plan of proceeding, he endeavoured to dissuade us from it by telling us that the "Bosun people"† would kill us and make slaves of the kroomen. Mr. Becroft however pressed his request, and concluded by saying, that if it was not granted he would go next year in the steamer. On hearing this Eyamba said, that he

* Pull-away-boys, the name given to natives who are usually engaged by the shipping in the river to paddle or row boats, and otherwise work for the vessels.

† Name given at Old Calabar to a people up Cross River.

would "look for head, and call man to speak about it." Accordingly, a day or two after, he called a council of his principal men, together with King Eyeo of Creek Town, when the resolution was come to amongst them, that the canoe should be given. Mr. Becroft was summoned before them, a messenger having been sent with Eyamba's staff for that purpose; and on his making a formal request for the use of the canoe and its pull-away-boys, he was told they were at his service.

Having made the canoe as comfortable as the nature of things and materials would admit, besides arming her as far as seemed needful, and taking on board some of our own kroomen, our own interpreter, and a leadsman from the steamer, we left that vessel to lay off Duke's Town till our return.

Nov. 4th.—Proceeding down the stream for a distance of about 5 miles from Duke's Town, Eyamba himself accompanying us in a boat about half the way, we came to the point where this branch and that of Cross River form a confluence, the entrance to the latter being much obstructed by large mangrove islands. Turning into a large creek-like opening on our right, formed by the main land on one side, and by a large island of mangrove on the other, and proceeding about a mile in a N.N.W. direction, with 4 and 5 fathoms water, we shortly after entered the first, or sea reach of this (the Cross River) branch of the Old Calabar. This runs in a N.W. direction, a broad and expansive sheet of water, varying in width from 1 to $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles, but having miserable soundings. These we found 1, $1\frac{1}{2}$, and 2 fathoms, but the state of the tide was nearly that of low water, and the rise, as indicated by the roots of the mangroves, was apparently from 7 to 8 feet. The stream, as we advanced, became broken into numerous channels by mangrove islands, which beautifully diversified its aspect, and gave to the whole an exceedingly picturesque appearance. As we ascended farther, though still exhibiting an extensive surface, it narrowed a little, which had the good effect of deepening the water. Our pilot now kept the canoe as close as possible to the bush, out of the strength of the current, and to take advantage of every little assisting eddy. Passing a tolerably-sized divergent on our left, running off, as the pilot informed us, to Egbo Sairra, we came to anchor for the night.

5th.—At daylight we weighed again and proceeded. The reach we were in extended N. by E. about 2 miles, and was bounded on both sides by an impervious mass of the most luxuriant vegetation, with here and there only a small patch of mangrove. Proceeding onwards at a slow rate, we next entered a N. by W. reach, 250 to 300 yards wide; about the middle of which, on the south end of a small island, we observed the last mangrove bushes. Further on a little, the river trends to the N.W.; its banks, com-

posed of a blackish loam, appearing now a few feet above water. At 8 h. 30 m. we passed another considerable divergent running off on our left also towards Egbo Sairra, and entered at the same time the most beautiful reach we had yet seen. In this reach, extending N.N.E. for nearly 3 miles, with a width varying from 450 to 900 yards, we observed several hippopotami, animals we had not seen since leaving the Niger. The aspect of the country now changes, cultivated patches, principally of cocos and yams, extending along on our right, while the W. bank forms a woodland of beautiful appearance. Passing a long woody island, extending nearly throughout this long reach, we arrived at what may be termed the commencement of the delta of this river. The main body, here 1000 to 1500 yards wide, divides into three separate streams, the centre one (by which we had ascended) forming by much the widest outlet for its waters. Of the other two, one flows to the S.W., towards Egbo Sairra, being the next widest stream, while the third pursues a peaceful course to the E. and S.

Being now in the main trunk of the river, and continuing our course up another extensive reach in a N.N.W. direction, with plantations and scattered bombax on each side of us, we arrived at Icricock landing, upon the W. bank of the river. Here it was determined to remain for the night, our men being a good deal fatigued with their day's exertions.

Thus far the banks of the river are low and even, composed entirely of a rich alluvium, resting, since we entered the main body of the river, upon a substratum of a ferruginous clay. At Icricock the aspect changes, the W. bank rising into a hill of about 120 feet, covered with trees and plants of various descriptions; the hill is composed of sand and clay, with numerous quartz-pebbles of a roseate appearance, and rounded by attrition. In two places near to where we landed, these materials were found, upon examination, cemented by the red oxide of iron into a conglomerate. A sandy beach extending about 40 yards here margins the river, which at this point has a width of about 1200 yards, divided by two finely wooded islands into separate channels. On ascending the hill we came to the town of Icricock, the inhabitants of which we found were absent in their plantations. It consists of not more than 100 houses, which are much scattered, with the ground cleared to some distance around.

6th.—We started early, after a night of much annoyance from mosquitos and sand-flies; the morning was dull and misty, which prevented our seeing to any distance, and gave to every thing within view a distorted appearance. Keeping along the W. bank in a N.N.E. direction, we reached at 8½ hours, a village belonging to Eyamba of Old Calabar, and named Biabboo. It was a

wretched-looking place, situated on the E. side of the river, containing a few miserable-looking inhabitants, chiefly women, most of whom, our pilot informed us, had been sent from Old Calabar for the *crime* of having "two piccaninnie one time" (twins).

The river now opened into a wide expanse of a semilunar form, rounding to the westward, and containing two beautifully wooded crescent-like islands. We passed up the westernmost channel, keeping as close as possible to the mainland bank, out of the strength of the current. The scenery was very beautiful, many gay flowers adorning the banks. At 4 h. 30 m. we emerged from this channel into a fine reach extending W.S.W. about 2 miles, and gradually narrowing as we ascended; the banks were partially cultivated, the other parts being overrun with a coarse grass, and studded here and there with large bombax. Pursuing our way up this reach against a current of 3 miles an hour, we arrived soon after dark at Etoo, upon the W. bank, but learning that the inhabitants were opposed to our landing from an idea that we had "doctor for small-pox,"* we crossed to the opposite side and anchored. It was necessary to be on our guard at this place, as the Etoos are known to be treacherous and cunning, and have frequently plundered Calabar canoes on their way to market. We therefore kept a good look-out, having fire-arms loaded and ready in case they might be needed.

7th.—We weighed at daylight and proceeded, the river trending N.W. and rounding to the northward, with an average width of about 300 yards. We passed on our left a small creek, leading, as our pilot informed us, to the Innieong country. At 10 h. 40 m., while we were at anchor and at breakfast, we were surprised at seeing a large canoe coming up the river with native flags and music, and having two men at the bow keeping up as constant a fire from muskets as they were able. On nearing us they ceased firing, when we desired the interpreter to hail and demand what was wanted; on doing so, he was answered that it was the "King of Innieong come to see white man," whom he heard "lived for water." The old gentleman, whose name was Eggbo Anna, on coming alongside, presented us with a goat, and when we shook him by the hand and thanked him for it, felt quite pleased and happy, signifying through the interpreter, that he had "never seen white man before;" and that his "heart was glad, now he look him." Continuing our course, the river next opened into a reach running N.E. by N. for some miles, 500 to 600 yards wide at first, then narrowing and confined within perpendicular banks of an ochreous nature.

* A supposed preparation or medicine, in the form of a powder, believed, according to our interpreter's representation, to be diffusible through the atmosphere so as to cause the disease mentioned!

Patches of yams, cocos, and maize, skirted the banks at intervals, while the country behind was plentifully and beautifully wooded. We passed several canoes engaged in fishing, an occupation which the natives here follow by means of ingeniously contrived baskets, fixed by stakes in the shallower parts of the river, into which the fish enter as they ascend against the stream. At 3 P.M. we arrived at a small town on the W. bank, and came to for a time to give our men a little rest. Leaving this town and again continuing our course in a N.E. by E. direction, we passed shortly after, on our left, a mural precipice of about 100 feet, apparently of a sandstone formation, being the commencement of a low hill extending to the eastward and northward. Our pilot informed us that the Innieong people, as well as those of Old Calabar, look upon this cliff as sacred. The river, as we now advanced, varied in width from 150 to 200 yards, with so strong a current that our progress against it became exceedingly slow. At 7 P.M. we arrived at a small village which our pilot informed us was close upon "Bosun," and having made fast for the night, dispatched a messenger to apprise the chief of that town that we would be with him in the morning.

8th.—Started early, the messenger having returned to tell us that "*Bosun man*" would be glad to see us. Continuing our course for a short distance to the eastward up a narrow reach, having 7 to 10 fathoms, we came to a large island, and taking the northernmost of the two channels formed by it, proceeded onwards against a powerful current, and at 8 h. 40 m. arrived at Bosun. We were surprised to find this town situated upon the upper end of the island, and not upon the mainland bank of the river, as we had been led to understand, and that its name is in reality Omùn, and not Bosun as the Old Calabar people call it. On landing, which we did amidst a large assemblage of people collected to see us, we despatched our interpreter to acquaint the chief of our arrival. His reply was, that he would send a person to conduct us to him; and following this guide, who shortly afterwards made his appearance, we passed along a few narrow windings to his house. It was a wretched-looking place, partly in ruins, with a collection of human skulls piled up at the entrance. These presented a revolting appearance, being coloured with red and yellow ochres, and having eyes of clay in the sockets. We passed through a small court crowded with women, and stooping under a low doorway, the only inlet, into a dark and narrow apartment of a semicircular form, were presented to Dee-un, the chief. He was a stout elderly man of heavy appearance, and without any thing at all remarkable about him. Beyond a mere expression of satisfaction at seeing us, he gave no indication that he cared about our visit, his principal men or "gentlemen" around being

the only speakers. These appeared to be much gratified with our arrival, and signified their hope that now that white men had found their way to Omùn they would return to trade with them. Dee-un dashed us a hundred yams, and would have added a bullock, which we however declined from the lack of accommodation in the canoe. On hearing this he inquired if there was anything else he could present to us, and without waiting for a reply, ordered a *slave* to be brought in for that purpose—the poor fellow, trembling with fear, was placed before us, and no doubt felt very grateful for our declining to receive him. Dee-un, however, and the “gentlemen” around him, were offended at our refusal, and entered into a noisy *palaver* amongst themselves on the subject—which having at length ceased, our interpreter explained the matter to them, and we departed.

We visited in turn the principal “gentlemen” of the town, who literally overwhelmed us with their kindness. In the evening we were entertained with music (such as it was) and dancing; and when we took our leave, to return for the night on board of our canoe, we were lighted to the beach with torches, preceded by singing-men, sounding the white men’s praises. These men continued their singing until a late hour, nor would they have retired, perhaps, until morning, had we not requested them to do so, and leave us to enjoy the repose we needed.

The town of Omùn, as mentioned before, is situated on the upper end of a large island, and contains, so far as we are able to judge, a population of perhaps 5000 inhabitants. The people in their general appearance resemble those of the towns of Old Calabar, and are marked with three horizontal incisions upon each temple, in a similar manner. They dress also as the latter do, but in an inferior style, as silks and the finer qualities of cotton cloths are excluded by the traders of Old Calabar from this market. The children and youth of both sexes go naked, a practice in general continued until marriage, which usually takes place early in life. Having but few wants, and those easily satisfied, these simple people may be said to be happy. We find them exceedingly hospitable, and anxious that we should remain a few days and visit their plantations.

The language here differs from that of Old Calabar, in illustration of which their respective numerals are subjoined.*

A market is held in a central part of the town, presenting

* English.	Omùn.	Old Calabar.	English.	Omùn.	Old Calabar.
One	Woo-nee	Kèt.	Seven	Obor-offy	E-teâbbâ
Two	Of-fy	E-bâ	Eight	Obor-ottât	E-te-eitâ
Three	Ot-tât	E-tâ	Nine	Obor-onmy	O-so-kèt
Four	On-ny	E-nâng	Ten	Dee-up	Boo-up
Five	Koo-bòh	E-tùn	Twenty	Nay-nup	Â-e-dup
Six	Obor-oonce	E-tukèt			

the usual miscellany of African productions, with the same noisy and eager system of barter which we have observed wherever we have been in Africa.

9th.—We found the water of the river rapidly falling, there being a difference this morning of 8 inches since 6 o'clock last evening. Altogether, as indicated by the bank, the water had fallen 2 fathoms. On this account, as well as from the uncomfortable accommodation on board the canoe, we determined to ascend no further. Landing, therefore, and taking leave of Dee-un and our several friends, we returned on board, and started at 1 h. 30 m. P.M., to retrace our course back to the steamer. We were accompanied for a short distance down the river by a few of the "gentlemen," who, on leaving us in their canoes, expressed individually a wish for our safety, requesting us at the same time not to be too long in returning to see them. We stopped for the night off the town of Biabboo, distant from Omùn about 16 miles, and proceeding again at daylight next morning (November 10), arrived alongside of the steamer off Duke's Town at 1 P.M., having been absent 6 days on our expedition.

METEOROLOGICAL MEMORANDA from Nov. 4 to 10, inclusive.

Date.	Fahr. Therm. in Shade.				Temp. of Water at Noon.	REMARKS.
	6 A.M.	Noon.	3 P.M.	6 P.M.		
Thursday .. 4	78	87	84	79	80	A.M., fine—P.M., cloudy.
Friday..... 5	75	84	87	82	79	Remarkably fine.
Saturday... 6	78	82	82	78	79	A.M., misty—P.M., cloudy and fine.
Sunday 7	76	81	82	80	79	A.M., rain with thunder—P.M., fine.
Monday ... 8	78	84	88	80	—	A.M., fine—6 P.M., rain with thunder.
Tuesday ... 9	78	82	83	80	78	6 A.M., rain with thunder—noon, cloudy—P.M., fine.
Wednesday 10	75	87	84	80	80	Remarkably fine.

Having satisfied ourselves by the above partial exploration, that Cross River, instead of being a branch, is, in reality, the Old Calabar River itself; and believing that a communication, in all probability, would be found by it far into the interior, it was with no small satisfaction that we received instructions from Mr. Jamieson the following year, to ascend it at its season of flood in the steamer. Accordingly, on the 7th September, 1842, we commenced its ascent in that vessel. Instead of following the course we did in our canoe expedition, up the broad and central stream which flows from the main body of the river near to Icricock, we entered (at 7 A.M.) the narrower one to the eastward, which our pilot said "went long way for big water." We found it to wind to the N.W. in a serpentine manner, with an average width of 100 yards, and having throughout a depth of water from 4 to 6 fathoms. Its banks are alluvial, covered with palms and other trees, and

margined at intervals with patches of mangrove. Passing a town situated on a sandy hill which extends for a few miles on the N.E. side of the stream, and emerging at 2 P.M. into the main body of the river, we came to an anchor about an hour after, off Iriccock. Here we remained for the night on account of the weather; it rained in such torrents that we were unable to see half-way across the river.

10th.—At 7 A.M. we weighed and proceeded, running along the western bank in 4, 5, and 6 fathoms. At 8 hours we crossed over to the eastern bank, passing Biabboo, with the view of proceeding up the eastern channel formed by the islands immediately above this village, having in our canoe-expedition of last year taken the other. We found this channel throughout to have a depth of 5 fathoms, with an average width of 120 yards. Pursuing our course we passed Etoo, and arrived at 1 P.M. at Omùn, and anchored. Our friends here were greatly pleased to see us once more, but showed themselves very doubtful as to the character of the conveyance by which we had this time come, making no secret of their suspicions that the propelling power of the steamer was an evil spirit, or, as our pilot interpreted it, the “*dehil*.” We invited some of the principal men, or “*gentlemen*,” to go on board, but to this they would by no means consent; until having seen some Old Calabar native traders (who were here for the purchase of oil) going off to the steamer and returning in safety, they at last ventured to go on board; when, so soon as their first feelings of alarm had subsided, they viewed every thing with the utmost degree of wonder and admiration. In the evening it rained in torrents, accompanied with much thunder and lightning, which so suddenly lowered the temperature (from 87° to 74°) as to cause discomfort to all on board.

11th.—At anchor all day, procuring fire-wood and other necessities.

At 8 P.M., intending to give a treat to the people on shore, we commenced the discharge of a few rockets, but learning that it alarmed instead of pleasing them, we discontinued the display.

12th.—This morning we were informed that many of the inhabitants had gone into the bush from the apprehension caused by our rocket exhibition of last night.

Remained at anchor all day, still wooding.

13th.—We weighed at an early hour and proceeded, taking with us as passenger one of the Omùn “*gentlemen*,” named Anna, who requested to be permitted to accompany us as far as his plantation, some distance up the river. Our course for above a mile was to the N.E.; the river then rounding to the north and west, and extending in a fine reach varying in width from 360 to 180 yards,


with soundings throughout of from 4 to 7 fathoms. The bank on our right rises into a sandy hill of about 400 feet, and follows in an undulating line the course of the river. We passed Birrie-quèh, an Omùn town, situated upon the hill, and containing, perhaps, a population of 600 inhabitants. Further on, the river trends a little more to the west, opening up gradually to about 400 yards. It then stretches N.W. by N., with an average width of 300 yards, as far almost as the eye can see. The soundings thus far are from 4 to 7 fathoms. At 11 hours we opened another reach extending N.E. by N., and passing a small woody island, came to our Omùn friend's plantation shortly above it, and anchored. There is here a small town named Innoo-cobòh, belonging to Anna, the inhabitants of which, numbering about 300, are chiefly the slaves who work upon his plantation. We met here several Eboes, who were come to visit Anna, one of whose wives residing here, a remarkably fine-looking woman, is of their country, which extends along the opposite or west side of the river. These people differ greatly from the Eboes on the Niger, and did not understand one word of what was spoken to them by a Niger Eboe, whom we had on board as one of our firemen.

14th.—At daylight we were again under weigh, running along the eastern bank in 5, 6, and 7 fathoms. Our Omùn friend, Anna, is still with us, being deputed, it appears, by the chief of that town, to accompany us as far as Acoono-Coono (the next large town we come to), and to endeavour, with our assistance, to bring about the settlement of a quarrel of long standing, about a disputed piece of ground, forming a territorial boundary. This he communicated only last evening to Mr. Becroft, who has promised to do what he can to arrange the matter amicably, not on our ascent, however, but on our return down the river. The morning was beautifully fine and pleasant, the breeze from the hill bringing with it a most delightful and refreshing fragrance. Continuing our course up the reach mentioned yesterday (N.E. by N.), the next we opened was to the north and west, 300 to 350 yards wide, and having its banks thickly wooded. Our next lay N.E. by E. $\frac{1}{2}$ E., 3 to $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles long, having an average width of 250 yards, with water throughout from 3 to 5 fathoms. Continuing our course about the same distance up another, in a N. by W. direction, narrowing to about 180 yards at its upper end, and turning at a somewhat acute angle to the north and east a little, we arrived, soon after 10 o'clock, off Acoono-Coono, and came to an anchor. Here the river expanded into a lake-like appearance, having the large town of Acoono-Coono upon its east bank in the form of a crescent—the inhabitants, generally armed, crowded on the bank, greatly alarmed at our appearance, and seemingly determined to defend the town should it be necessary. Having dispatched the interpreter to acquaint them

that we were friendly, Mr. Becroft and myself shortly after followed, taking with us a few presents as tokens of a peaceful mission. We landed amidst an immense assemblage of people, who pressed so very closely around, in order to see us, that our situation was any thing but agreeable. By means of our interpreter, however, we managed to make it be heard amidst the general clamour, that we desired to be conducted to the chief. A man seemingly of authority then pressed forward, and opening a passage through the crowd, requested us to follow. We did so, and were conducted through a doorway up a narrow street into the palaver house, where presently a little decrepit old man made his appearance, whom the interpreter was desired to inform us was the person we wished to see. The house being crowded almost to suffocation, and dark from the low doorways being completely obstructed by eager spectators, we requested that a little more room might be made, and the doorways kept open for light and comfort; this done, Mr. Becroft remarked, that as we had come to see them without gun or cutlass, he expected that those around us with weapons should lay them aside, and manifest the same friendly confidence. The hint was acted upon, and guns and cutlasses immediately disappeared. We then informed the chief (by our interpreter), that "we had come from far-away country to know what things he had proper for trade in his country." He answered, "fowl, goat, yam, bullock, slave, and everything." On more particular inquiry we learned that palm-oil was made, but not extensively, and that it was disposed of to the Eboes on the opposite side of the river, who at present dispose of it to the native traders from New Calabar and Bonny. Previous to the quarrel with Omùn, before spoken of, this oil took its more natural course by the river to that town, and thence to the European shipping at Old Calabar.

In form, the town of Acoono-Coono, as mentioned above, is that of a crescent, extending in a narrow stripe for about three-quarters of a mile along the eastern bank of the river: the houses composing it are mean and wretched-looking, those even of the chief not excepted. The whole number of inhabitants may probably amount to four thousand; they are a finer-looking people in general than those of Omùn, having less of the negro grossness of feature, and are altogether a handsomer and far more intelligent-looking race, resembling those of Iddah, and others above that town upon the Niger. Both sexes wear around the middle the usual cloth of European or native manufacture, with strings of beads round the neck, wrists, and ankles. None but children are seen to go naked. Many of the females wear bracelets and leglets made of cowries, which they procure, we were informed, higher up the river; they dress their hair in a most remarkable

manner, collecting it into knots, generally one before, one behind, and one upon each parietal bone, with a thread of hair extending

between them. The national marks are  nine horizontal in-

cisions upon each temple, placed in three squares. The principal men permit their finger nails to grow without paring, which is here, as at Iddah and other places above that town on the Niger, considered to be a mark of gentility. Their manners too, resemble those of the same people, partaking of the Mohammedan form when meeting each other, or when a menial approaches his superior to address him. In the latter case he generally drops upon one knee, and leaning forward until his head comes into contact with the earth, heaps dust upon it as a token of respect and submission. We here observed native tobacco (which they say they obtain from a people to the westward), prepared exactly in the same manner as that which we observed in 1840 at Iddah, and which they smoke in long native pipes of a similar description to those used at that town. This, taken in conjunction with the fact that Acoono-Coono is little more than a degree to the eastward of Iddah, as laid down on Capt. Allen's Chart of the Niger, goes to establish that there is an intercourse between these places, though in all probability of a limited nature.

15th.—We weighed at 5h. 40m. A.M. and proceeded. The morning was dull and chilly, the thermometer at the time being so low as 72°—a degree of cold which compels us to take to warmer clothing.

The river immediately above Acoono-Coono extends N. by E. in a beautiful reach—2 to 2½ miles in length—having a continuous width of about 900 yards, with soundings along its western bank of 4 fathoms. It then trends N. by W. about 3 miles farther, narrowing to about 600 yards, and increasing in depth to 5 and 6 fathoms. Its banks, thus far, are of an ochreous clay of a plastic nature, with a top-soil of a rich alluvium, the accumulated deposits of its annual inundations; and are here varied in their aspect by scattered bombax and clusters of fan-palms—the latter likewise crown the hills on the east bank, which still run in an undulating line to the north, covered besides with a long coarse grass and patches of thick brushwood. Proceeding onwards, the river again opens N. by E. in a narrow reach of about 3 miles, at the commencement of which, on the west side, a range of hills about 250 feet high, coming from the westward, follows the line of the river, frequently presenting to it mural facings, apparently of sienite, which, in numerous places, were separated into immense masses by perpendicular fissures. The reaches now for about 7 miles run as follow:—N.E. half E. 1¼ to 1½ miles,

with an average width of 360 yards, and soundings from 5 to 6 fathoms; E. half N. 1 mile, 200 to 250 yards wide, and 6 fathoms; N.E. by N. $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile, 450 yards wide, narrowing at its upper end to 220, with 5 and $5\frac{1}{2}$ fathoms; E.N.E. $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile, 150 yards, and 8 to 10 fathoms; N.N.E. three-quarters of a mile, 200 yards, and 10 fathoms with rocky bottom; N. 1 mile, 100 yards, and 10 fathoms with rocky bottom. We passed two towns situated upon the south-east bank of the river, and distant from each other about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles, the lowermost and largest being named Aco-Coomo. The inhabitants of both seemed at first greatly alarmed at our appearance, running and providing themselves with arms as fast as possible; but on the interpreter calling out to them that we were friendly, and not come to make war, they almost immediately quieted, and at Aco-Coomo even beckoned us to stop. We passed on, however, and continued our way against a powerful and increasing current, amid scenery of a very lovely, and, on our left, of a continuously rocky and romantic kind. On nearing the upper end of the reach, running N. about 1 mile, and having 10 fathoms, with rocky bottom throughout, the current increased to such a degree that the steamer for nearly a whole hour, perceptibly only, moved a-head. Advancing a little further we perceived that we were in a rapid, caused by the stream here coming from the E., being deflected at a right angle from a rocky wall of about 40 feet in height, forming the western bank of the river. Having passed it, we had 5 fathoms again, the river widening at the same time to about 250 and 300 yards, and rounding to the southward. We now opened a reach running S. by E. $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 miles, having a continuous width of about 300 yards, with soundings along its eastern side of 5 and $5\frac{1}{2}$ fathoms. On reaching its southern extremity we rounded again to the eastward, passing on our right a considerable town, hid almost from view by cocoa and other trees, the inhabitants of which, however, crowded down to the bank to see us. It was surprising to notice the absence of apprehension in these people (when contrasted with that shown by the people of the towns below), scarcely one of them evincing any symptom of alarm. Several of the women we observed, as at Aco-Coomo, were employed in boiling palm-oil in the open air, which they did, as at that place, in native earthen pots. The breadth of the river here is about 250 yards, narrowing a little further on to about 180, when it expands again into a fine open reach, N.E. by E. 2 to $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles, with nearly a continuous width of 300 yards, and soundings of $5\frac{1}{2}$ fathoms; the trendings then for about 7 miles are as follow:—E.S.E. 1 mile, 250 to 300 yards wide, narrowing at its upper end to about 200, with $4\frac{1}{2}$ and 5 fathoms; E. $1\frac{1}{4}$ mile, 250 yards wide, and 5 fathoms; E.N.E. three-quarters of a mile,

200 yards, and 5 fathoms; N.N.E. three-quarters of a mile, 180 yards, with 5 and $5\frac{1}{2}$ fathoms; E.N.E. $3\frac{1}{4}$ miles, 150 yards, with soundings along its south-eastern side from 4 to 10 fathoms. The banks are highly picturesque, covered with trees and palms of various descriptions; hilly on both sides, but very unlike in aspect and structure. The northern bank consists of tabulated rocky hills, apparently of sienite, rising from 300 to 400 feet above the level of the river, and presenting numerous precipitous cliffs and mural facings. The southern bank is diluvial, not exceeding anywhere 200 feet in height, and of a somewhat uniform and undulating appearance. Several villages are scattered over the former, but, excepting one (the houses of which we were surprised to see were of a conical form), almost hid from view by plantain and cocoa trees, and a thick mass of surrounding brushwood. As we passed, the inhabitants ran to the heights to see us, few that we could perceive appearing to be at all alarmed, or carrying with them defensive weapons. But few of them, we also observed, wore clothes of European or cotton manufacture, their covering being of their own grass-cloths. Proceeding onwards, the next reach we opened was E. by N., $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $1\frac{3}{4}$ mile in length, and 350 to 400 yards wide, with soundings along its S. side of 5 and $5\frac{1}{2}$ fathoms. Here again the aspect changes, the rocky hills running off at an obtuse angle to the N., and being succeeded by a comparatively level, open, and thickly wooded country. A grassy flat, extending back about half a mile, margins the northern bank of the river, with here and there a gigantic bombax throwing a shadow across its surface. Pursuing our course E.N.E. 2 to $2\frac{1}{4}$ miles; E. half a mile further; E.S.E. three-quarters; and E. again $1\frac{1}{4}$ mile, with an average width of 300 yards, our progress was unexpectedly interrupted by a powerful current, so strong, indeed, that the steamer for some minutes was unable to stem it. On crossing to the opposite bank, and advancing a little further by keeping as close as we possibly could along it, we perceived that the river at this point formed a right angle, the next reach opening about $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile directly to the southward. The banks thus far are densely wooded, none of the trees however being of a very large or magnificent description. Passing a small town on our right, situated on a grassy bank close by the water, we continued our course along the western side of this reach in 5 and $5\frac{1}{2}$ fathoms; its width we estimated from 400 to 450 yards and upwards. At 5h. 30m. we passed another and a larger town, situated upon the same side of the river, which here has a width of 300 yards, with a depth of somewhat more than 5 fathoms; the trending here is S.E., rounding to the eastward; the banks, consisting of a pink-coloured and seemingly a very plastic sort of clay, are flat

and grassy, with a wall-like appearance towards the water. Proceeding onwards we shortly after came to another and still larger town, likewise situated upon our right, and containing a population of perhaps 200 inhabitants. Leaving this, the river opened almost immediately into a fine reach N.E. by E. 1 mile, having a width of 600 yards, with an average depth of 5 fathoms. We passed two other small towns, situated, like the others, upon the left bank amid cocoas; and coming shortly after to a small woody island, which served to break considerably the force of the current, we stopped and anchored. Here we spent but a very indifferent night, having been prevented from sleeping by the frequent discharge of muskets and continued noise of native drums, which the inhabitants of the town below kept up without intermission until morning.

16th.—We weighed at daylight and proceeded, the river trending N.N.E. $1\frac{1}{4}$ mile, with soundings along its western bank of 5 fathoms; its width, immediately on passing the island, was about 700 yards, narrowing as we advanced to about 350, and having the bank on our left, 15 to 20 feet out of the water; it then opens N.E. about 2 miles, having an average width of 300 yards, with soundings of 4 and $4\frac{1}{2}$ fathoms. At the upper end of this reach we passed on our right a small town, and getting into shoal water immediately after, we crossed to the opposite, or eastern bank, into 4 fathoms. Continuing our course along it in 5 and 6 fathoms, we proceeded up a reach extending N. nearly $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile, having a width of about 350 yards, and rounding at its upper end largely to the eastward. In this round we passed on our left three towns, situated closely together, the inhabitants of which, generally armed, stood crowded on the bank to see us. The bank here was from 12 to 18 feet high, and indicated, we observed, a fall of about 2 feet in the river—this surprised us, and increased our anxiety to get forward. Proceeding onwards in 4 fathoms, we shortly after entered a reach extending S.E. by E. about 3 miles, 400 to 550 yards wide, and having soundings along the right bank from 2 to 4 fathoms. Probably, however, we were on the shoal-water side of the river, for on crossing near to the upper end of this reach, and continuing our course along its opposite bank, the depth increased at once to 5 and $5\frac{1}{2}$ fathoms. The river then rounded to E. three-quarters of a mile, and shortly after to N.E. by E. $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 miles, and narrowing a little. In the upper end of this last reach we passed on our right a beautifully wooded island about three-quarters of a mile in length, with a small town opposite to it on the right bank of the river. Turning again to the S.E., and continuing our course in 5 and $5\frac{1}{2}$ fathoms for about $1\frac{1}{4}$ mile in that direction, with an average width of 250 yards, we came to another wooded island

larger considerably than the former; and selecting the northernmost, from being the widest of the two channels formed by it, proceeded onwards in $3\frac{1}{2}$ and 4 fathoms. We passed on our left a smaller branch coming from the N.E., out of which, just as we approached it, issued a large canoe, with native flags of various colours, and seemingly belonging to one of the chiefs, or "gentlemen," of the country. The pull-away-boys on perceiving us ceased paddling immediately—their paddle-song being changed at the same time into an exclamation of surprise. Seeing us approach nearer perhaps than was consistent with their notions of security, they pulled rapidly to the bank, and leaping on shore almost in a body, disappeared instantly amongst the underwood, leaving the canoe to proceed along with the current. We passed on, without appearing to take any notice of them, and leaving behind the large island, entered a reach extending E.N.E. about 1 mile, and passed immediately afterwards a small town situated on our right.

Thus far, since starting to-day, the banks for some distance are chiefly flat and grassy, with clusters of fan and other palms, and scattered trees of the wild cotton. Numerous plants of different descriptions skirt them here and there, forming thick patches of low brushwood at intervals along the river. Behind the grassy flats, the country is thickly and beautifully wooded, having, no doubt, many useful and valuable woods amongst such an exuberant mass of vegetation. Besides the towns already noticed, we passed several small villages, chiefly inhabited by fishermen, who pursue their vocation by entrapping fish in ingeniously-contrived baskets, as already described. Yams and cocoas were the only vegetable productions that we observed to be cultivated, which, with bananas and plantains, appear chiefly to constitute the vegetable portion of the food of the natives.

Continuing our course up the last-mentioned reach (E.N.E. about one mile), with an average width of about 250 yards, we commenced to round again to the eastward, passing on our left a considerable town beautifully situated upon a grassy rising ground, and containing perhaps a population of nearly 900 inhabitants. The bank at this town rises into round grassy eminences of about 100 feet, with a few palms only scattered over their sides and summits. Proceeding onwards in 4 fathoms, we continued to wind largely to the southward, when, having opened a reach with a width of about 500 yards extending above a mile in that direction, we were agreeably surprised at seeing a range of mountains burst into view directly ahead of us. On examining them through a glass, we could perceive that they were wooded to their summits; and as we could just distinguish some palms upon a ridge to the eastward of a rounded peak in the centre, we calculated that they

might be distant from 15 to 20 miles in a direct line from us. The peak we considered could not be less than 3000 feet above the level of the river. We passed in this reach two more small towns situated nearly opposite to each other on the respective banks of the river, and, having rounded to S.W. by W., proceeded up a reach, extending about three-quarters of a mile, with soundings along its western side from 2 to 5 fathoms. As we ascended here the river narrowed considerably, having a width of no more than 120 yards in rounding into the next reach, which greatly increased, of course, the force of the current. Proceeding onwards in 4 and 5 fathoms, we continued our course up a somewhat narrow reach extending S.E. nearly 1 mile, and, having rounded again to the S., had another and more distinct view of the mountains seen before in that direction. The reach we were now in extended S. about $1\frac{1}{4}$ mile, having an average width of about 400 yards, with soundings along its western bank of 4 and 5 fathoms: the trendings then for about 5 miles are as follow—S.E. by E., 2 miles; S.S.E., 1 mile; E.S.E., 1 mile; and E. $\frac{1}{2}$ N., 1 mile also. The stream in this distance exceeds, in one reach only, a width of 300 yards; its average being about 250, and having a depth of water, generally speaking, of 4 fathoms. Both banks are thickly wooded, the northernmost one apparently rising into a low hill behind, as large numbers of fan-palms were observable from the deck of the steamer in that direction. We passed several towns, none of them however being of any size or importance; and none containing, we dare say, more than 300 inhabitants, some of whom still show themselves upon our approach armed with muskets. Continuing our course in an E.N.E. direction about $1\frac{3}{4}$ mile farther, the aspect again changes, both banks rising now into grassy hills of about 150 feet, and covered chiefly with palms and plantains, with bombax and other trees skirting the river. Proceeding onwards, the river trends about E.S.E. $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 miles—in short reaches 150 to 200 yards wide, with soundings from 4 to 6 fathoms. The banks, generally speaking, are a series of conical hills, rising from 150 to 300 feet above the level of the river, some of them covered with palms and other trees, while others are grassy, with a few palms only scattered over their sides and summits. On a few we observed innumerable boulder-stones, apparently of sienite, strewed about in every direction, and reminding us of similar appearances below Adda-coodàh, on the Niger. A few villages likewise were observable in the valleys between, with patches of yams, cocoas, and plantains upon the sides of the hills nearest to them. Passing a small town on our left, the river next rounds to the southward and W. about 4 miles, having a width of about 250 yards, with soundings along its western bank from 4 to $5\frac{1}{2}$ fathoms. We passed on our left a large town, named Attam, which our in-

terpreter informed us was his birth-place, and from which he had been sold in early life, at the death of his father, as a slave. Farther on, we passed two small towns on our right, and rounding shortly after to S.E., and passing on our left three other towns situated closely together, the central one being large and named Ocoom, we came to an anchor for the night in $4\frac{1}{2}$ fathoms. We had not been long here when we observed two canoes put off from the landing, having each on board a *white* sheep and fowl, the latter of which was held up at arm's length to attract attention, and to indicate, we supposed, their friendly disposition. On the interpreter desiring them to come alongside, they did so, though with great caution—a feeling which increased on coming on board to positive apprehension; but their fears were soon allayed by a little kindness. On their leaving to return on shore, we desired them to say to the chief that we would see him in the morning.

17th.—Accordingly, while steam was getting up, we proceeded on shore, and found the chief, named Indòmoh, waiting, with a large crowd of people, to receive us at the landing. Walking to his house, he asked us to accept of a small bullock, which we did, and made him a suitable present in return. We then let him understand that we were desirous of having an interpreter to accompany us up the river, and with much difficulty we prevailed on him to let his son go with us in that capacity; when we returned on board, and weighed. The river first opened S.S.W., then rounded largely to the eastward, and opening into an E.N.E. reach for a short distance, trended again to the E., with an average width, thus far, of 250 yards, and a depth of water from 4 to 7 fathoms. We passed on our left a sandstone cliff of about 20 feet, beside which is a small town, named by our new interpreter Icoom; and turning suddenly round to the S. and W., continued our course in that direction for about 9 miles in a serpentine manner, when, our fuel being exhausted, we anchored. The banks in this distance are densely wooded, rising on each side in a sloping manner to a height of about 200 feet.

18th.—At anchor all day, wooding. The mountains previously mentioned were seen this evening over the trees, from the mast-head, ranging from S. to W., distant apparently about 8 or 10 miles.

19th.—Weighed at daylight, and proceeded; the river still continuing to wind in a serpentine manner to the S. and E., having a width of from 150 to 250 yards, and soundings from 5 to 6 fathoms. It then winds to the E. for about 6 miles, decreasing in width from 200 to about 100 yards, though in a few places having a width for short distances of nearly 300, with both banks densely wooded. The soundings thus far are from 5 to 10 fathoms. Passing a small stream on our right, the river began to narrow exceedingly,

and to trend in short reaches of from 350 to 250 yards in length only, to the N., E., and N.E. We had great difficulty now in getting forward, the current having increased to such a degree as all but to stop the vessel's progress. At 9 h. 30 m. we entered a short reach extending about 350 yards to the northward, confined within perpendicular cliffs of sandstone, rising on each side of us to a height of about 80 feet, and having large trees depending from their summits. Here the river had a width of about 30 yards only, with such an impetuous current that the steamer (of 30 horse-power) was unable to advance any farther against it. Seeing this, and feeling besides that his vessel was now in a most perilous position (for had the current taken her upon either bow, she must inevitably have been impelled against the cliff, and have lost her masts and funnel by contact with the depending trees and large branches), Mr. Becroft gave orders to slow the engine, with the view to drop down until he found a suitable place to anchor. This, from the rapidity of the current, was done with much difficulty and danger, nor could we find an anchorage until we had descended from 3 to 4 miles.

At noon, having manned and armed the long galley, we proceeded in her to endeavour, if possible, to get beyond the rapid. On coming to the place we had reached in the steamer, we kept close by the cliff, and taking advantage of every projection and branch that could be laid hold of, succeeded in passing, but not before the kroomen had almost been exhausted from the severity and continuance of their exertions. Having rested awhile, which we were enabled to do by making fast to the projecting limb of a large tree, we again proceeded, and continued our ascent about 2 miles farther up the river. The rapid extends about half a mile altogether; or, if the term be applied to that portion of the stream confined within the precipitous cliffs, about three-quarters of a mile, in four short reaches, nearly as follows: N., about 350 yards; N. by W., 200; N.N.E., 300; and N. $\frac{1}{2}$ E., about 300 also; with a uniform width apparently of about 30 yards. Above, the river gradually opens again to about 300 or 350 yards, having soundings from 4 to 6 fathoms, and winding to the N.E. in a somewhat serpentine manner. The banks, so far as we ascended, were thickly wooded. At 6 P.M. we passed a small town on our left, situated upon a grassy eminence, the inhabitants of which, we could perceive, were preparing to attack us; and opening at the same time a wide reach extending above a mile to the N.E., we stopped, and allowed the boat to drop down leisurely with the current. On seeing us stop, the inhabitants of this small town began to fire at us, which they continued to do until we were out of sight round a turn in the river. Fortunately, the stones, or whatever else had been fired,

either dropped short, or passed harmlessly over us; and we returned to the steamer pleased, if not with the reception we had met with, at all events with what we had seen of the river.

20th.—At daylight proceeded in the boat again to examine the rapid, and to ascertain if, with the assistance of warps, the steamer could not be got above it. Perceiving that any attempt at warping would be attended with imminent hazard, and finding that the water of the river was now rapidly falling, Mr. Becroft determined to retrace his course to the coast.

21st.—On examination this morning, we found that the water had fallen during the night 19 inches. At daylight commenced wooding; and having finished at 10, we weighed and commenced our descent of the river. At 2 P.M. we reached Ocoom, and anchored for a little to land the chief's son, whom we had taken from this town in the capacity of interpreter. Having made a suitable acknowledgment for his services, we returned on board, and, weighing, continued our descent until dark, when we came to for the night in 4 fathoms.

22nd.—Weighed at daylight, and, at 1 P.M., having reached Acoono-Coono, again anchored. Do-dee (the chief) and the "gentlemen" of this place were happy to see us, and expressed a hope that we were now come to remain some time with them. It will be remembered that we have with us from the town of Omùn, lower down the river, a "gentleman" named Anna, who has been deputed to arrange, if possible, by our mediation, a quarrel of long standing with these people. With the view of introducing this subject as quietly as possible, we took the opportunity, while speaking of Omùn, to signify how sorry we were to hear that Acoono-Coono and Omùn were "bad friend," and how glad we should feel to see them "stand again proper." This remark had the desired effect, and elicited their account of the subject of quarrel. This was a disputed claim to a small hill or eminence remarkable for its fertility, situated on the E. bank of the river below Acoono-Coono, forming part of the ill-defined territory of that town and of the town of Omùn respectively; as likewise to a landing-place, to which the people of the neighbouring country generally brought their yams and other produce for sale.

23rd.—Engaged all day on shore, hearing, through our interpreter, what the chief and "gentlemen" of Acoono-Coono and Anna of Omùn had respectively to say in support of their claims to the disputed territory.

24th.—Again occupied until 2 P.M. on this question, much the same as yesterday; when, having obtained the promise of both parties to abide by our decision, we awarded—that Omùn give up all claim to that half of the eminence nearest to Acoono-Coono,

and that the landing-place shall be considered neutral ground. This arrangement having given satisfaction, the parties were sworn to abide by it; and, having first partaken of food together, as is their custom on such occasions, agreed to be friends for the future, and to resume and continue trading with each other.

25th.—On examining, this morning, we found that the water had fallen 4 feet since we anchored on the 20th, which increased our anxiety to be out of the river.

Having bid adieu to the old chief and “gentlemen” of Acoono-Coono, and accepted of a fine cow which they presented to us, we weighed at 10 A.M., and, running down to Innocoboh, the plantation of our passenger Anna, came to an anchor for the day to receive a present of yams which he desired to give us.

26th.—Weighed at 9 h. 30 m., and in two hours arrived at Omùn. The chief and “gentlemen” of this town, on being informed by Anna of the settlement of the “palaver” with Acoono-Coono, expressed great satisfaction, taking us by the hand, and warmly thanking us for the service we had rendered them, and further acknowledging it by presenting to us a bullock and 1000 yams.

27th.—Weighed at 1 P.M., and at 3 arrived off Etoo. Feeling unwilling again to pass this place without making an attempt to be friendly, we came to an anchor, and despatched a messenger to inform the chief that we had not come to “make war,” but to be friends, and as such desired to see him. In about an hour our messenger returned, accompanied by two “gentlemen” of the place, apparently sent with a view to ascertain the truth of our message. To these we showed every attention and kindness, and on their leaving us we desired them to say to the chief that we should be on shore early in the morning, when we would expect to meet him and his “gentlemen” at the landing-place.

28th.—On landing at an early hour this morning, we were pleased to find the chief—a stout, middle-aged man—with several of his “gentlemen,” waiting to receive us. The first salutations being over, we were much gratified at being requested to accept of several “dashes” which they had brought for us, and for which we made suitable returns. We then partook of some palm-wine together, and entered into conversation about their refusal to see us on our former visit. The chief acknowledged that this arose from fear of us; but now he was glad to find that “white man” was his friend, and hoped we would come back, and make trade with him.

Returning on board, and getting steam up, we weighed at noon, but had not reached Icricock before we considered it prudent to anchor on account of the shoaling of the water. On Mr. Becroft's return from sounding the channel (having found nowhere less than

11 feet, nor more than $2\frac{1}{2}$ fathoms) we again weighed, and passing Iricock without stopping, continued our descent (following the same course by which we had ascended) without interruption, into the estuary of the river; and at 6 h. 30 m. P.M. anchored off Duke's Town, having been absent 19 days on our expedition.

METEOROLOGICAL MEMORANDA, from September 7 to 26, inclusive.

Date.	Fahr. Therm. Shade.				Temp. of Water at Noon.	REMARKS.
	6 A.M.	Noon.	3 P.M.	6 P.M.		
Sept. 7	74	82	82	86	76	Remarkably fine—4 P.M., rain, thunder & lightning.
8	74	84	90	74	79	Showery—6 P.M., rain, thunder and lightning.
9	76	87	86	76	80	Remarkably fine—6 P.M., rain, thunder, &c.
10	76	82	80	76	78	Ditto 6 P.M., ditto.
11	74	89	92	87	80	Sultry and fine.
12	74	82	86	78	78	Remarkably fine.
13	72	82	90	76	78	Sultry and fine.
14	74	87	89	77	80	Ditto.
15	75	84	86	78	80	Fine—8 P.M., rain continuing all night.
16	74	76	80	78	78	A.M., rain—P.M. fine.
17	76	78	78	74	76	Ditto rain at noon—P.M., fine.
18	74	80	82	78	78	Remarkably fine.
19	74	81	82	79	78	Ditto.
20	74	80	84	78	77	Ditto.
21	74	76	76	74	76	A.M., fine—P.M., rain, with a strong S.S.W. breeze.
22	72	87	90	74	80	Ditto 6 P.M., rain, thunder and lightning.
23	74	78	82	76	78	Ditto P.M., showery.
24	74	86	86	76	80	Remarkably fine.
25	75	79	82	76	78	A.M., fine—P.M., showery—6 P.M., rain.
26	74	84	80	76	80	Ditto 2 P.M., rain—4 P.M., fine.

XV.—*Report on the Country to the Eastward of Flinders' Range, South Australia.* By C. E. FROME, Capt. R.E. Communicated by Lord STANLEY.

THE most northern point at which I found water last year was near the top of a deep ravine of the Black Rock Hills, in latitude $32^{\circ} 45' 25''$, where I left the dray, and the larger portion of my party, on the 20th of July last, taking on only a light spring-cart, the bottom filled entirely with kegs containing sufficient water for our horses for nearly three days, and provisions for one month, which was as much as the cart would contain.

My object being to ascertain the boundaries of the southern termination of the eastern branch of Lake Torrens, as laid down by Mr. Eyre, and also the nature of the country between Flinders' Range, as high as the parallel of Mount Hopeless, and the meridian of 141° (the eastern limits of the province), I kept, at first, a course as near N.N.E. as the nature of the ground would admit, to ensure my not passing to the E. of this extremity of the lake, from whence I intended, if possible, to pursue a line nearly N.E., as far as my time, and the means at my disposal, would allow me, hoping to reach the high land laid down by Sir Thomas Mitchell on the right banks of the Darling, to the N. of Mount

